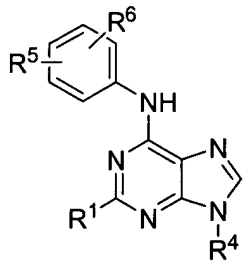
Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

The present invention provides compositions and methods for differentiating and transdifferentiating mammalian cells into cells of an osteoblast lineage, using compounds of the following formula:



wherein R^4 is a functional group including, for example, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, hydroxyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl-C_{0-3}alkyl, substituted with 0-2 R^{4a} groups, and heterocyclo-C_{0-2}alkyl, optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl; R^5 is hydrogen and R^6 is a functional group including, for example, halogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, -C(O)-C_{1-4}alkyl, -SO_2-N(R^{2b}, R^{2b}), halo-C_{1-4}alkyl, -O-aryl and -N(R^7, R^8), or when R^5 and R^6 are on adjacent ring atoms they are optionally taken together to form -O-$(CH_2)_{1-2}$-O-; and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates thereof.